

The cover art features a young man with long brown hair and a light blue shirt lying on his back, eyes closed, with a small, round, metallic robot head resting on his chest. A young woman with dark hair tied in a ponytail, wearing a blue tank top, is positioned below him, looking up at the robot head with a concerned expression. The background is a chaotic mess of tangled wires in various colors (red, blue, black) and some mechanical components. The title 'EDEN' is written in large, stylized, orange-outlined letters across the middle. Below the title is the subtitle 'It's an Endless World!'. In the bottom right corner, there is a small orange circle with the number '1'. At the bottom left, the author's name 'HIROKI ENDO' is written in bold black letters, followed by '遠藤浩輝' in smaller Japanese characters.

EDEN

It's an Endless World!

1

HIROKI
ENDO 遠藤浩輝

It's



an

Endless

World!

...WAS
MY
FATHER?

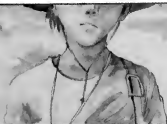
HEY...
WHAT
KIND OF
PERSON...

...IS OF ONE
MOMENT.
HE AND MY
MOTHER,
DANCING
TOGETHER
HAPPILY...

THE
ONLY
REAL
MEMORY
I HAVE
OF HIM...



THAT'S
ALL
I CAN
REMEMBER...



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TRANSLATION / **KUMAR SIVASUBRAMANIAN**
LETTERING / **STEVE DUTRO**

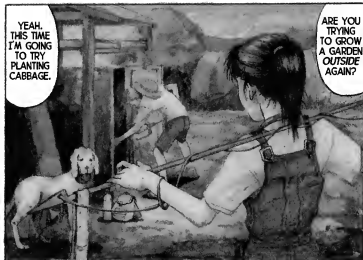
EDEN

HIROKI ENDO 遠藤浩輝
It's an Endless World!

Chapter 1 / Prologue

YEAH.
THIS TIME
I'M GOING
TO TRY
PLANTING
CABBAGE.

ARE YOU
TRYING
TO GROW
A GARDEN
OUTSIDE
AGAIN?



...MAKES
ME FEEL
CONNECT-
ED TO
SOMETHING
OTHER
THAN
MYSELF.

THE
PLEASURE
OF
GARDEN-
ING AND
GROWING
VEGE-
TABLES...



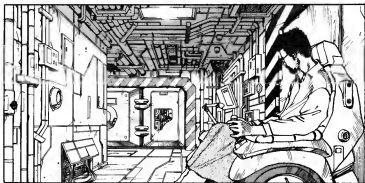
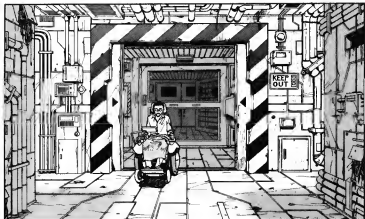
TAKING
CARE OF
PLANTS
INSIDE THE
MODULE
IS HARD
ENOUGH, BUT
YOU LIKE
DOING THIS,
DON'T YOU?

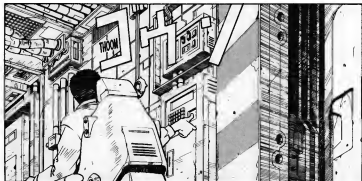
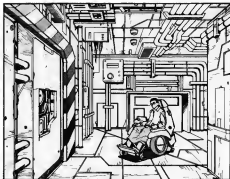
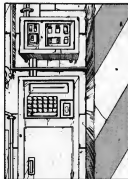
YEP.

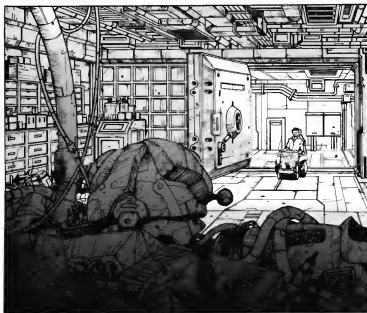








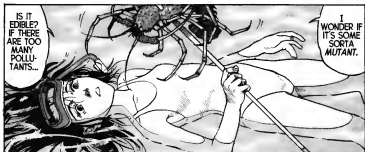


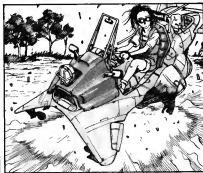
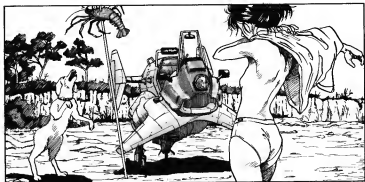




DON'T
HATE
ME.

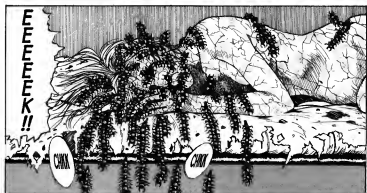
SOME-
BODY HAD
TO TAKE
THE FALL
FOR WHAT
HAPPENED.

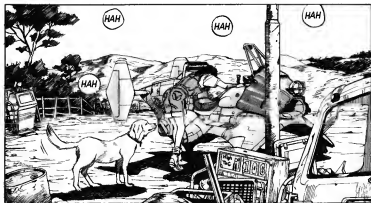




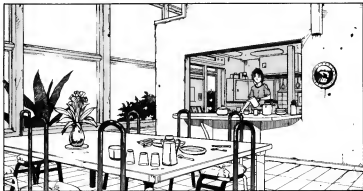












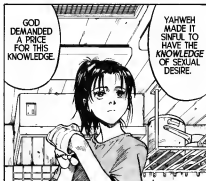






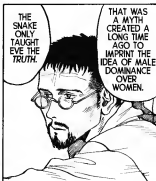
...THEN CAN YOU BLAME MAN'S LUST FOR A WOMAN ON THE INHERENT SHORT-COMINGS OF WOMEN TOO?

IF YOU TAKE IT THAT EVE WAS BAD 'CAUSE SHE WAS TEMPTED BY THE SERPENT AND ATE THE FRUIT FIRST...



GOD DEMANDED A PRICE FOR THIS KNOWLEDGE.

YAHWEH MADE IT SINFUL TO HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE OF SEXUAL DESIRE.



THE SNAKE ONLY TAUGHT EVE THE TRUTH.

THAT WAS A MYTH CREATED A LONG TIME AGO TO IMPRINT THE IDEA OF MALE DOMINANCE OVER WOMEN.



...IN ORDER TO GO ON LIVING, SEE?

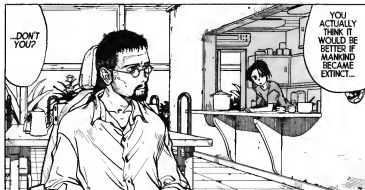
BUT MAN DECIDED TO KNOW...

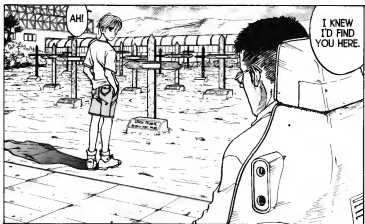
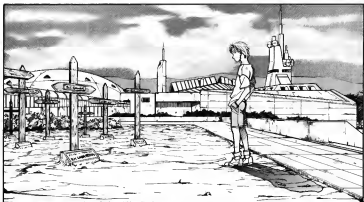


WHAT GOD PROBABLY WANTED WAS FOR MAN TO REMAIN IN A STATE OF IGNORANCE AND "PURITY."



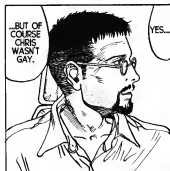














SIX
YEARS,
MAYBE.

HOW LONG
SINCE YOU
LAST SAW
PROFESSOR
MORRIS
LAYNE?



AH
YOU
CAN
SEE
IT
THERE
NOW.

HE WAS
ANGRY
YOU'D
GOTTEN
MARRIED
WITHOUT
TELLING
HIM,
THOUGH.

I CAN'T TELL
YOU HOW
OVERJOYED
HE WAS WHEN
HE HEARD YOU
WERE ALIVE!







PLEASED
TO
MEET
YOU.

AND THIS
IS MY AIDE
AND CHIEF
OF TECH-
NOLOGY,
LIEUTENANT
MAYER.



THE
NAME'S
LINDA
ORRICK.

THIS IS
MY WIFE.
SHE'S WITH
THE WHO.

WHO: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



I
COULDN'T
STAGE A
COMEBACK
EMPTY-
HANDED!



IT'S PRETTY
SHREWD THAT
YOU MADE
IT BACK...AND
FOUND A WIFE
ALONG THE
WAY.



CHRIS, I HEARD
YOU'D GONE
MISSING AFTER BEING
DISPATCHED TO
ALBANIA AS PART
OF THE UNITED
NATIONS PROTECTION
FORCE.



TELL IT
TO MY
BOSS!



WELL, NOT THAT
IT MAKES ME
HAPPY, BUT I
DON'T HAVE
TIME TO STAND
AROUND
CELEBRATING
WITH OLD
FRIENDS.

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE CURRENT PANDEMIC HAS INCREASED TENSIONS BETWEEN NATIONS.



WE ALSO HAVE REPORTS OF FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION BEING AFFECTED BY RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISCRIMINATION.



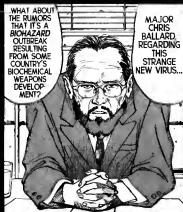
IN WESTERN ASIA AND AFRICA, RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND REFUGEE PROBLEMS ARE WORSENING. SOME NATIONS HAVE COME FORWARD ASKING TO BE PUT UNDER UN TRUSTEESHIP.

WE HAVE NO INFORMATION LEADING TO THAT CONCLUSION FROM USAMRIID. EVEN IF WE DID, THERE'D BE NO WAY TO CONFIRM IT.



THAT'S NEGATIVE.

WHAT ABOUT THE RUMORS THAT IT'S A BIOHAZARD OUTBREAK RESULTING FROM SOME COUNTRY'S BIOCHEMICAL WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT?



MAJOR CHRIS BALLARD, REGARDING THIS STRANGE NEW VIRUS...

USAMRIID: UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES

BIOHAZARD: DISASTER CREATED BY MICROORGANISMS



NO.



...



COLLAGEN DISORDERS: IMMUNE DISORDERS IN WHICH FIBERS OF SKIN, MUSCLE, AND JOINT CONNECTIVE TISSUES INCREASE, OFTEN LEADING TO DIFFICULTY IN MOVEMENT. CAUSES ARE UNKNOWN, BUT AUTOIMMUNITY IS SUSPECTED. EXAMPLES: PANARITIS, RHEUMATISM, SCLERODERMA.



DON'T
FEEL
BAD.



THE
TRUTH IS,
MILITARY
HIGH COM-
MAND...

...MAKES
ME SICK
TOO.



I CAN
UNDER-
STAND
HIS FEELINGS.

MY BOSS
JUST ISN'T
TOO KEEN
ON LETTING
THE MILITARY
WALK AWAY
WITH THE
UPPER HAND.



THEY SIPHON
OFF AS MUCH
FROM THE
DEFENSE
BUDGET AS
POSSIBLE
TO PAY FOR
THEIR OWN
EXORBITANT
SALARIES.

THEY SEND THEIR
SPIES AROUND THE
WORLD TO ENGINEER
"MANAGEABLE CRISES"
OF TERRORISM AND
ELECTRONIC WARFARE...
AND WHATEVER ELSE



IS THAT
WHY YOU
STARTED
LEAKING
INFORMA-
TION?



...AND THE
MILITARY
ESTABLISH-
MENT REMAIN
THE FACES OF
SUPERIORITY IN
THIS COUNTRY.
NOTHING'S
GONNA
CHANGE.

AS LONG
AS THE
CHRISTIAN
FUNDAMEN-
TALISTS...



...



DON'T
WORRY,
I HAVEN'T
TOLD
ANYONE.

YOU... YOU
KNOW
ABOUT
THAT?

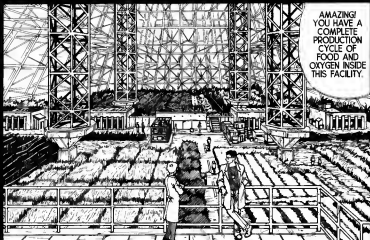


IT'S
ALL MY
FAULT,
SHE
SAID.

SHE SENT
ME A LETTER
BEFORE YOU
GOT HERE.

WAS IT...
LINDA?



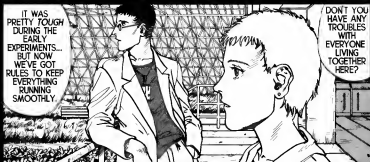


AMAZING!
YOU HAVE A
COMPLETE
PRODUCTION
CYCLE OF
FOOD AND
OXYGEN INSIDE
THIS FACILITY.



DURING
OUR MAIDEN
EXPERIMENTS
IN 1991, OUR
ENTIRE STAFF
WAS WHITE,
WHICH WAS A
BIT OF A
PROBLEM.

THE PEOPLE
WHO WORK
HERE ARE
OF EVERY
NATIONALITY,
RACE, AND
GENDER.



IT WAS
PRETTY TOUGH
DURING THE
EARLY
EXPERIMENTS...
BUT NOW
WE'VE GOT
RULES TO KEEP
EVERYTHING
RUNNING
SMOOTHLY.

DON'T YOU
HAVE ANY
TROUBLES
WITH
EVERYONE
LIVING
TOGETHER
HERE?



YOUR COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, SO I THINK IT WAS OKAY TO RUN.

I THREW AWAY MY COUNTRY AND RAN AWAY WITH HIM!



I USED TO THINK MY HOMELAND WOULD ALWAYS RUN THIS SMOOTHLY TOO.



WARS HAPPEN.

FORGET ABOUT IT.



...



IN THEIR EYES, I MUST SEEM LIKE A COWARD.

BUT I HAD SO MANY FRIENDS WHO LOST THEIR FAMILIES AND DECIDED TO TAKE UP ARMS.



YOU THINK HE AND I ARE ALIKE?

YOU KNOW, CHRIS TENDS TO CARRY THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD ON HIS SHOULDERS, TOO.

YOU HAVE
EVERY GREAT
BLACK SOUL
ARTIST FROM
THE LAST
CENTURY!

YOU'VE GOTTA
BE KIDDING! I
NEVER THOUGHT
ANYONE WOULD
ACTUALLY BRING
THEIR ENTIRE
RECORD
COLLECTION
HERE WITH
THEM!



I HAVEN'T
CHANGED
MUCH
SINCE HIGH
SCHOOL.

WOW.
I GIVE
UP.

AND IT'S ALL
ANALOG? I'M
SUPPOSED TO
BELIEVE THIS?
IN THIS DAY
AND AGE?



...ENDED
UP
FOLLOWING
THE
SAME
PATH IN
LIFE.

WE
GREW UP
IN THE
SAME
TOWN
WENT TO
THE SAME
SCHOOLS
...

YEAH.

I GUESS
YOU AND
CHRIS ARE
BOTH STILL
KIND OF
CHILDLIKE.



WHAT
KIND
OF PLACE
DID YOU
GROW
UP IN?

...

HOW DOES
THAT MAKE
YOU THE
SAME? IT
MUST'VE
EVEN MADE
YOU SICK,
RIGHT?

BUT THEN
HE WENT
AND JOINED
THE ARMY,
WHILE YOU
STAYED
BEHIND IN A
UNIVERSITY
LAB.

DIFFICULT.

WELL,
WHEN YOU
COME OUT
OF THE
CLOSET IN
A SMALL
TOWN, LIFE
CAN BE...

IF
PEOPLE'D
BEEN NICER
TO EACH
OTHER
AND LESS
VIOLENT, IT
WOULD'VE
BEEN A
GREAT
PLACE
TO LIVE.

THE
KIND OF
COUNTRY
TOWN YOU
FIND
EVERY-
WHERE.

VIOLENT?

THEY USED
TO CALL HIM
'FAGGOT
FRIEND.'
AND THAT
WAS ENOUGH
TO GET US
BOTH BEATEN
UP.

BUT WHEN CHRIS
FOUND OUT I
WAS GAY, HE
NEVER...NOT
ONCE...THOUGHT
ABOUT BREAKING
OFF OUR
FRIENDSHIP.

...BUT
CHRIS
NEVER
FOUGHT
BACK.

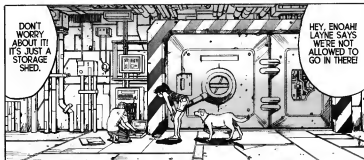
IT HAPPENED
EVERY TIME
AFTER HIGH
SCHOOL GYM
CLASS...

...HE
WOULD
JUST
CONSTANTLY
GIVE
THEM THE
FINGER.

INSTEAD,
WHENEVER
THEY WERE
BEATING
US UP...

HE
WAS MY
HERO.

I HAD
NO BETTER
FRIEND
IN THE
WORLD.



THIS PLACE
IS FULL OF
USELESS JUNK.
DISCS THAT
HAVEN'T
BEEN TOSSED
OUT--

WHOA...



THAT
THING?
BET IT
DOESN'T
WORK
ANYMORE.

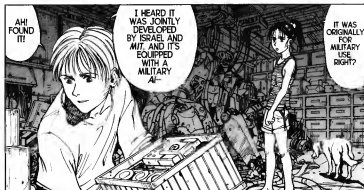
IS
THIS
JUNK,
TOO?



I WONDER
IF IT'S
TRUE THAT
IT WENT
BERSERK?

ONCE, WHEN
I WAS A KID,
I SAW IT
WORKING...





AH!
FOUND
IT!

I HEARD IT
WAS JOINTLY
DEVELOPED
BY ISRAEL AND
MIT, AND IT'S
EQUIPPED
WITH A
MILITARY
AI--

IT WAS
ORIGINALLY
FOR
MILITARY
USE
RIGHT?

MIT MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

AI- ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

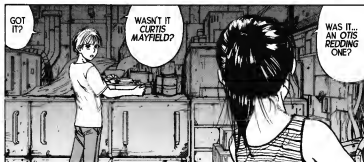


HUH?

HMM...

IT WILL IF
I FIX IT UP.
CAN YOU
SEE IF THE
RECORD IS
IN THERE?

THAT
RECORD
PLAYER?
DOES IT
REALLY
WORK?



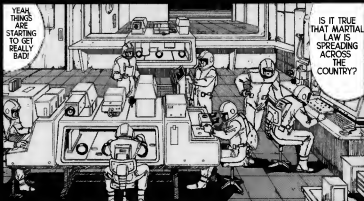
GOT
IT?

WASN'T IT
CURTIS
MAYFIELD?

WAS IT...
AN OTIS
REDDING
ONE?







YEAH
THINGS
ARE
STARTING
TO GET
REALLY
BAD!

IS IT TRUE
THAT MARTIAL
LAW IS
SPREADING
ACROSS
THE
COUNTRY?

...IS
SIMILAR
TO
HIV.
HOW-
EVER...

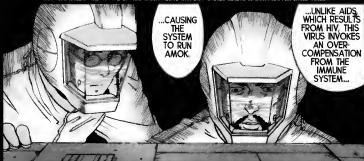
AND
THE WAY
IT ATTACKS
THE IMMUNE
SYSTEM...

LOOKING
AT THIS, IT
SEEMS LIKE A
TYPICAL RNA
RETROVIRUS
CONTAINING
REVERSE
TRANS-
SCRIPTASE
DOESN'T
IT?

OKAY,
THIS IS
THE SKIN-
HARDENING
VIRUS.



DNA: DEOXYNUCLEIC ACID: A TYPE OF ACID WHICH, ALONG WITH RNA, STORES GENETIC INFORMATION FOR LIVING THINGS.

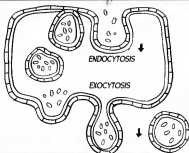


...CAUSING
THE
SYSTEM
TO RUN
AMOK.

...UNLIKE AIDS,
WHICH RESULTS
FROM HIV, THIS
VIRUS INVOKES
AN OVER-
COMPENSATION
FROM THE
IMMUNE
SYSTEM...

RETROVIRUS: A TYPE OF MALICIOUS VIRUS WHICH USES RNA FOR ITS GENETIC MATERIAL. LEUKEMIA, FOR EXAMPLE, REVERSES TRANSCRIPTASE: AN ENZYME WHICH RECOMPOSES DNA BASED ON AN RNA MOLECULE.

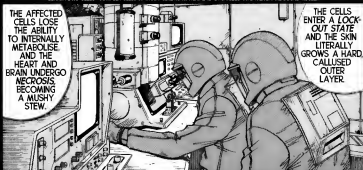
BASICALLY, THE EUKARYOTIC CELLS BECOME UNABLE TO PERFORM EITHER ENDOCYTOSIS OR EXOCYTOSIS.



THE IMMUNE SYSTEM ENDS UP SHUTTING OUT TOO MUCH OF THE "OUTSIDE WORLD" IN ORDER TO PROTECT ITSELF.

EUKARYOTIC CELLS: COMPLEX CELLS IN WHICH GENETIC MATERIAL IS ORGANIZED INTO MEMBRANE-BOUND NUCLEI

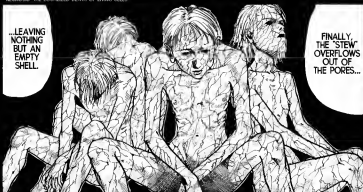
THE AFFECTED CELLS LOSE THE ABILITY TO INTERNALLY METABOLISE, AND THE HEART AND BRAIN UNDERGO NECROSIS, BECOMING A MUSHY STEW.



THE CELLS ENTER A LOCK-OUT STATE AND THE SKIN LITERALLY GROWS A HARD, CALLUSED OUTER LAYER.

NECROSIS: THE LOCALIZED DEATH OF LIVING CELLS

...LEAVING NOTHING BUT AN EMPTY SHELL.



FINALLY, THE "STEW" OVERFLOWS OUT OF THE PORES...

ENDOCYTOSIS AND EXOCYTOSIS: THE CONSUMPTION OF EXTERNAL MATTER AND THE REMOVAL OF INTERNAL MATTER VIA A CELLULAR MEMBRANE. ALLOWS A DELICATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE



WHERE IT
CAME
FROM...
WHERE IT
SPREAD...

WE
DON'T
KNOW
IF IT'S
AIRBORNE
OR
PASSED
THROUGH
BODILY
FLUIDS.

THE
PROBLEM
IS...WE
CAN'T
IDENTIFY THE
SOURCE, THE
ROUTE OF
INFECTION,
OR ITS
MEDIUM.



IT'S LIKE
A VISIBLE
PHYSICAL
VERSION OF
AUTISM.



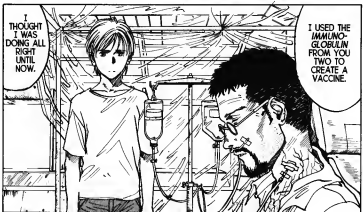
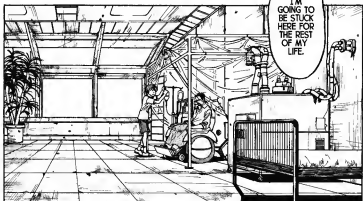
THAT'S
HARDLY
ENOUGH
TO BEGIN
WORK ON A
VACCINE.

WE'VE
BARELY
MANAGED
TO IDENTIFY
THE VIRUS!



IT'S
IRONIC
WHEN
YOU THINK
ABOUT
IT.

THIS FACILITY'S
TOTALLY SELF-
CONTAINED, WITH
ITS OWN
ECOSYSTEM,
FOOD, AND AIR
CIRCULATION.

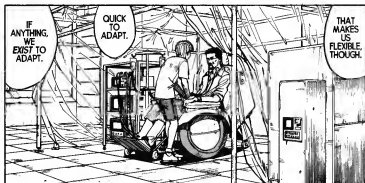
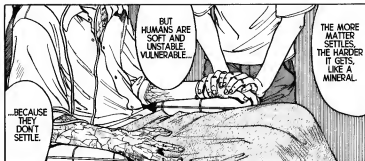


IMMUNOGLOBULIN: A TYPE OF PROTEIN WHICH ACTS AS AN ANTIBODY.



IF MY FACE
HARDENS, I
WON'T BE
ABLE TO SPEAK
ANYMORE.
EITHER, YOU
TWO WILL
HAVE TO--





YOU'VE TAKEN
IN THE GENES
OF THE VIRUS'S
RNA AND
COEXIST ALONG
WITH IT.

YOU
TWO ARE
DIFFERENT.



...THE
VIRUS HAS
GIVEN YOU
A GIFT. A
NEW SET
OF GENES.

WHAT
I MEAN
IS...

...AND
SUR-
VIVE.

YOU CAN
EVOLVE
INTO
"A NEW
SPECIES"...



...AND
USING
THEM TO
EVOLVE IS
THE VERY
MEANING
OF
EXISTENCE.

TAKING
IN NEW
THINGS...



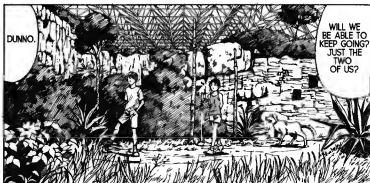


LAYNE ...



YEAH.





IT'S NOT
LIKE WE HAVE
SUPERPOWERS
OR ANYTHING.

THE ONLY
THING WE'VE
GOT IS THAT
WE CAN
COEXIST
WITH THE
VIRUS.



...WE'RE
UTTERLY
POWERLESS.

JUST LIKE
EVERY OTHER
HUMAN
THAT'S COME
BEFORE US...





NOPE.

ARE
YOU IN
CONTACT
WITH YOUR
FAMILY?



WE'RE
ALL TOO
HARD-
HEADED.

YOU'RE
STILL
NOT ON
SPEAKING
TERMS,
THEN?



...HOW
DID YOU
END UP
RUNNING
AROUND
LIKE A
SPY?

YOU DON'T
WORK FOR
THE CIA,
SO...



CAN I
ASK YOU
SOME
THING?

WHAT
??

CHRIS
?



...



LINDA WAS
ABDUCTED
BY ISLAMIC
FUNDAMENTALIST
GUERRILLAS.

WHEN
UNPROFOR
PULLED OUT
OF ALBANIA,
EVERYTHING
WENT CRAZY.

UNPROFOR- UNITED NATIONS PROTECTION FORCE

"IN
EXCHANGE,
FROM
NOW ON,
YOU'LL
COOPERATE
WITH US."

THEY
SAID,
"WE'LL
RESCUE
YOUR WIFE
AND GET
HER TO
GREECE."

...I WAS
INTRO-
DUCED TO
MEMBERS
OF AN
"ORGANIZA-
TION."

THEN,
THROUGH
A FRENCH
OFFICER...

SO I'M
INDEBTED
TO THEM.

WITHOUT THEIR
HELP, LINDA
WOULDN'T HAVE
COME BACK
ALIVE. ENOAH
WOULD NEVER
HAVE BEEN
BORN, YOU
SEE.

PROPATER.



WHAT'S
THE
GROUP'S
NAME?



I THINK
THEY
MUST
HAVE
SOME
IDEA.



DOES THE
CIA OR
DEFENSE
DEPARTMENT
KNOW
ABOUT ITS
EXISTENCE?

FORGET
ABOUT
ME.



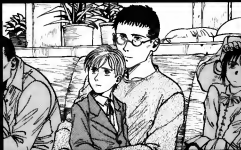
GO
HAVE
YOUR
DANCE.

ENOUGH
OF YOUR
BORING
MAN-TO-
MAN
DRUNK
TALK!

AW,
LEAVE
ME
ALONE!

CHRIS,
THIS IS
THAT
SONG
YOU LIKE!







IT'S A
LITTLE BIT
SOON FOR
THAT, DON'T
YOU THINK,
MAYER?

CONGRATULA-
TIONS ON
OUR FIFTH
ANNIVERSARY,
DOCTOR
LAYNE!



AND THEN,
WHAT
HELL
USE
IS THE
ARMY OR
NATIONAL
DEFENSE
GOING
TO BE?

PRETTY
SOON THE
UNITED
STATES
WON'T EVEN
EXIST
ANYMORE!



THIS
TWO-
YEAR
MISSION
IS
IN ITS
FIFTH
NOW.

HA,
HA...



ALL OVER THE
WORLD, PEOPLE
ARE DYING LEFT
AND RIGHT!
TUCKED AWAY IN
THIS CAPSULE,
WE'RE GOING TO
ENSURE "THE
PERSEVERANCE
OF THE HUMAN
RACE"...?

HA!

WE'RE HERE
TO ENSURE
THE
PERSEVER-
ANCE OF
THE HUMAN
RACE,
LIEUTENANT.





I
HAD TO
USE A
SEDATIVE.

YES,
FINALLY.

DID YOU
CALM
HIM
DOWN?

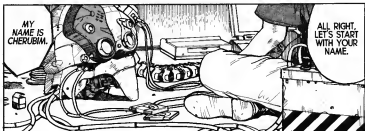
THIS LAST
YEAR
MUST'VE
BEEN
ESPECIALLY
TOUGH.

THINK
OF THE
GUILT HE
MUST BE
FEELING.

AND HE'S
LOCKED
UP IN HERE
WITH NO
DEATH IN
SIGHT FOR
HIMSELF...

CAN'T SAY
I BLAME
HIM...HE
LOST HIS
MOTHER
AND HIS
BROTHER
TO THE
VIRUS.





SA (SUBSUMPTION ARCHITECTURE): A BOTTOM-UP LEARNING SYSTEM IN WHICH A ROBOT IS GIVEN A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF DATA BEFORE BEING RELEASED INTO AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH IT WILL GRADUALLY ADAPT.



HANNAH'S ALWAYS MAKING FUN OF ME FOR IT.

YEAH, BUT THAT'S WHAT I'M STUCK WITH.

ISNT ENNOIA SUPPOSED TO BE A GIRL'S NAME?

ENNOIA: THE GNOSTIC GODDESS OF THOUGHT, THE EMBODIMENT OF THOUGHT ITSELF.



YES.

IS YOUR DATA INTACT?

...AND MY NAME WAS THE ENTRY CODE. CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

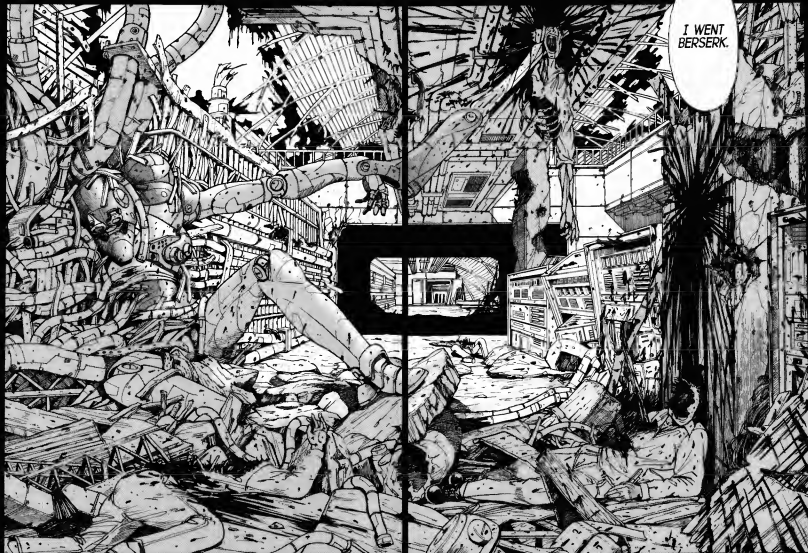


ANYWAY, THESE DISCS TURNED OUT TO ACTUALLY BE YOUR SYSTEM BACKUP...



A BUG WAS SET LOOSE IN MY FRAME PROGRAM BY AN ARMY OFFICER WHO SNAPPED.

WHY WAS YOUR PRIMARY DATA REMOVED AND SEALED WITH A PASSWORD?



I WENT
BERSERK.

EVERYONE
GET DOWN!
OPEN YOUR
MOUTHS AND
COVER YOUR
EARS!!

WE'RE
BLOWING
THE DOOR
TO THE
CONTROL
ROOM
NOW!











...IS A NATURAL
MUTATION OF
A VIRUS
WHICH LEAKED
OUT OF
THE U.S. ARMY'S
BACTERIOLOGY
LAB IN FORT
DETRICK.

THIS VIRUS,
WHICH
HAS NOW
SPREAD
ACROSS THE
GLOBE...

...FIFTY
PERCENT
EFFECT-
IVE.

IT'S NOT
PERFECT
YET. IT'S
ABOUT...

THE
VACCINE?

CAN
YOU
PROVE
THIS?

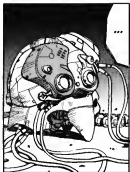
...

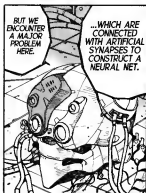
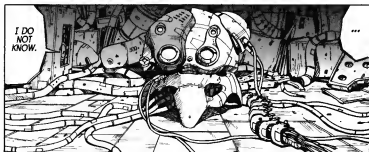
NOW
THAT I'VE
GOT THIS
TEST
DATA.

I
CAN.

I'LL MEET
WITH THE
HEADS OF
PROPATER.

THAT'S
PLENTY. GIVE
ME THE
VACCINE AND
THE DATA
AND I'LL GET
OUT OF
HERE...







"BODY,"
"SURROUND-
INGS,"
AND "DESIRE"
ARE ALL
NECESSARY.

IN
ORDER
TO
MAKE UP
HUMAN
INTELLI-
GENCE...



THERE IS
ONE THING
THAT CAN
BE SAID...

THIS IS A
QUESTION WHICH
NEITHER
SCIENTISTS NOR
PHILOSOPHERS
HAVE BEEN ABLE
TO ANSWER.



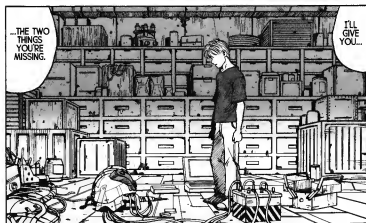
THEN,
BECAUSE OF
MY GRAVE
CRIMES
OF MURDER,
YOU SEE ME
AS I AM
NOW.

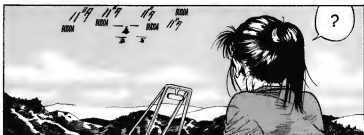
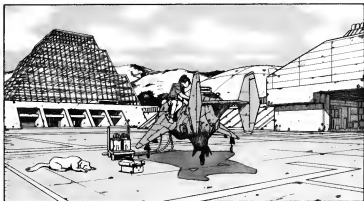
THE NEED
CAME TO
IMITATE A
HUMAN IN ITS
TOTALITY, AND
I WAS
CONSTRUCTED.

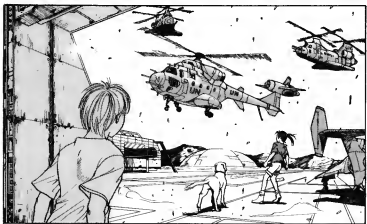
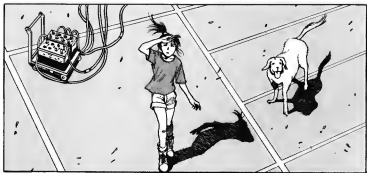


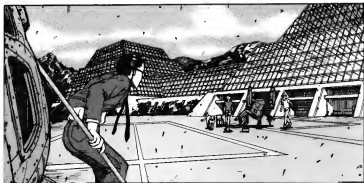
HOWEVER,
I DO
FEEL
DESIRE.

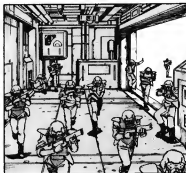
CURRENTLY, I
HAVE NO BODY.
WITHOUT A
COMPLETE FRAME
SYSTEM, I AM
UNABLE TO
VERIFY MY
SURROUNDINGS.

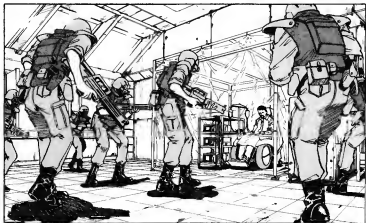












YEP.

...YOU?



ENT...
RY...

TH-THIS
IS...IL...
LEGAL...



BUT I'M
COMING
HOME.

...





ALL
OF US
HERE...
AND
PLENTY
MORE.

WE ALL
SURVIVED.



...AND
RESTORA-
TION IS
PROCEED-
ING AT A
FEVER
PITCH.

THE
UN IS
FUNCTION-
ING
AGAIN...



YOU
MUST BE
ENOAH,
RIGHT?



THE WORLD'S
POPULATION
HAS FALLEN,
BUT YOU DIDN'T
THINK WE'D
ACTUALLY LET
MANKIND DIE
OUT, DID
YOU?

DON'T
LOOK
SO DIS-
APPOINTED.



BET YOU'D
LIKE TO SEE
YOUR FATHER,
WOULDN'T
YOU?











WHEN THE ORGANIZATION FREED ME, I WAS ALMOST DEAD FROM THE INTERROGATIONS AND THE INFECTION!



MY BODY IS MOSTLY A MACHINE, NOW, EXCEPT FOR MY BRAIN.

...



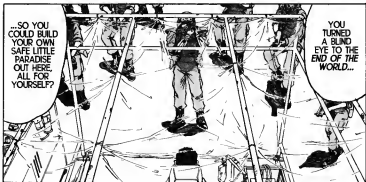
GIVING VACCINE INJECTIONS ONLY TO YOURSELF.

...YOU BECAME THE SURROGATE PARENT FOR THOSE TWO KIDS.



AND WHILE I WAS GETTING TURNED INTO THIS AND TRYING DESPERATELY TO PULL THROUGH...

...SO YOU COULD BUILD YOUR OWN SAFE LITTLE PARADISE OUT HERE, ALL FOR YOURSELF?

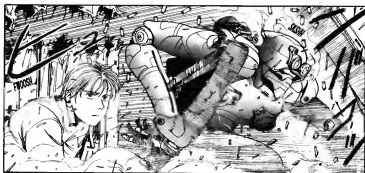


YOU TURNED A BLIND EYE TO THE END OF THE WORLD...





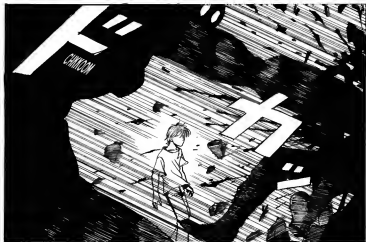




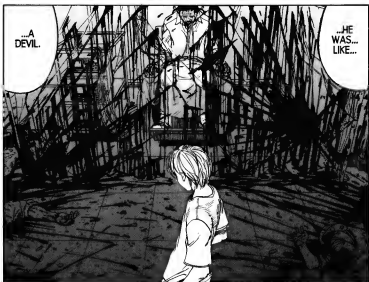












...A
DEVIL.

...HE
WAS...
LIKE...



AND
THEN
I--

IT
WOULD'VE
BEEN
BETTER IF
HE WERE
LIKE GOD.

--COULD
BE LIKE
ADAM.



WHAT
IS IT,
ENOAH?

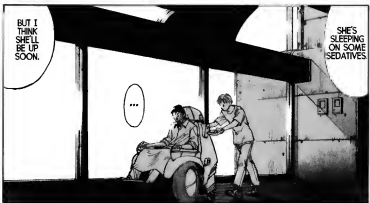
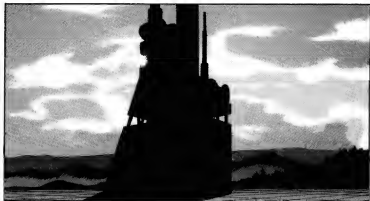


HEY,
CHERUBIM!



...THAT'LL
BE MY
ROLE TO
PLAY.

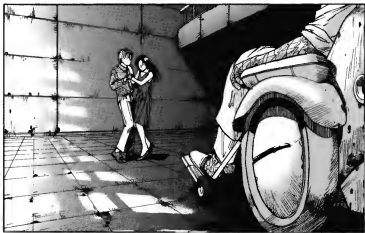


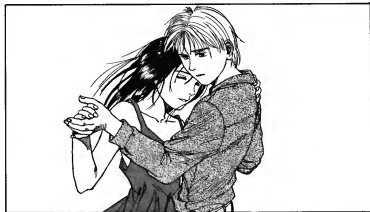


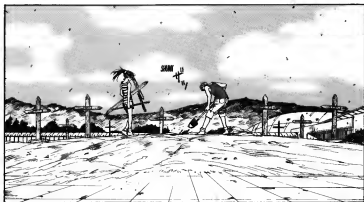


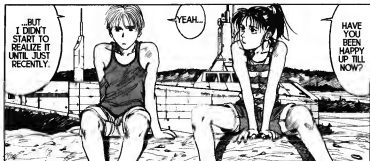












...BUT
I DIDN'T
START TO
REALIZE IT
UNTIL JUST
RECENTLY.

YEAH...

HAVE
YOU
BEEN
HAPPY
UP TILL
NOW?



ARE WE
BRINGING
HIM WITH
US,
TOO?

BY THE
WAY,
THAT
ROBOT--
CHERUBIM.



BUT ISN'T
HE EDEN'S
PROTECTOR?
THIS ISN'T
THE WAY
IT GOES
IN THE
BIBLE.

YEP.



...BUT THE
WORLD THAT
I FELT
GOOD LIVING
IN SURE DID.
IN A
HEARTBEAT.

THE
WORLD
DIDN'T
END,
AFTER
ALL...



AND THAT
MEANS WHEN
WE HAVE KIDS
WE DON'T
HAVE TO
NAME THEM
"CAIN" OR
"ABEL," EITHER.

WE DON'T
HAVE ANY
OBLIGATION
TO LIVE
ACCORDING
TO
MYTHOLOGY.



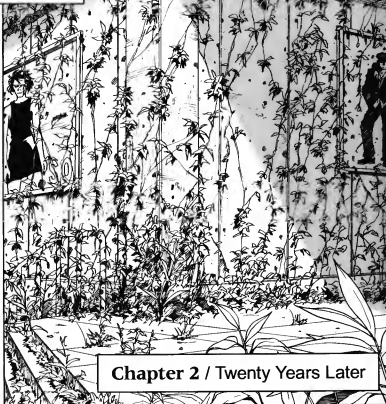
THAT WAS
OUR GOAL,
BUT WE
MISSED
THE MARK.

AFTER THE
END OF
THE WORLD,
WE WERE
SUPPOSED
TO HAVE
ETERNAL
LIFE.

SO THE TRUTH
IS, NOTHING'S
EVER GOING TO
CHANGE. AND
EVOLUTION—
OR WHATEVER
YOU WANT
TO CALL IT—IS
JUST GOING
TO LEAVE US
BEHIND.

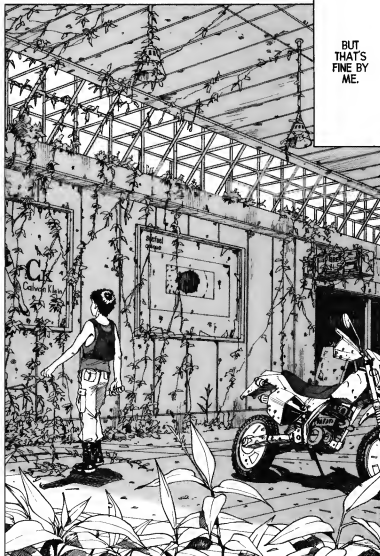
NO MATTER
WHAT
HAPPENS, NO
MATTER HOW
MANY TIMES,
THE WORLD
ALWAYS
RIGHTS ITSELF.

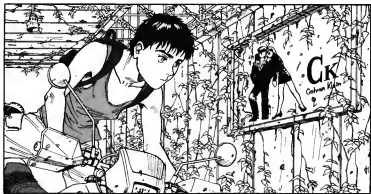
I THINK IT'S
JUST FINE. THE
WORLD IS THE
WAY IT ALWAYS
IS IN THE
MORNING
AFTER WAKING
FROM A
NIGHTMARE.

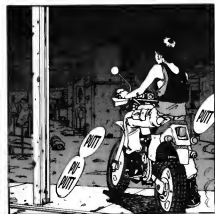


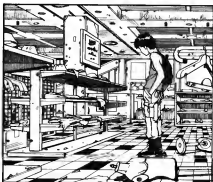
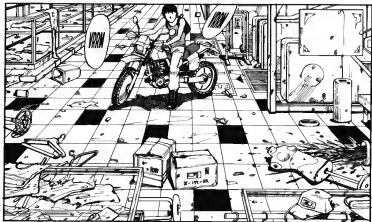
Chapter 2 / Twenty Years Later

BUT
THAT'S
FINE BY
ME.

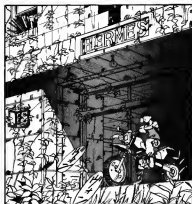
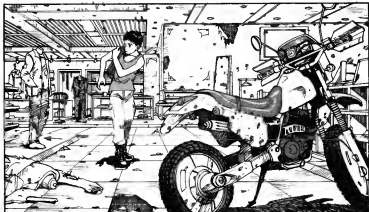










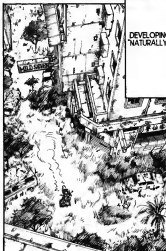


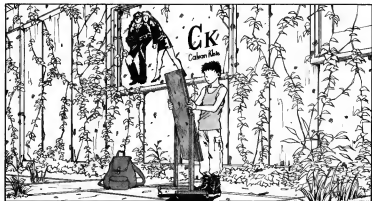
BUILT BY
HUMANS SO
THEY COULD
LIVE THEIR
LIVES AS
THEY DESIRED.

CITIES.

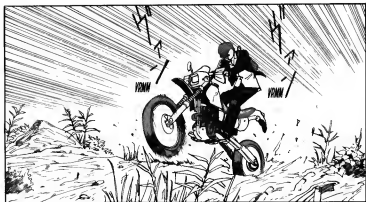


DEVELOPING
"NATURALLY."





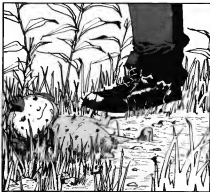
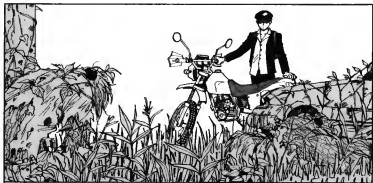




IT
PREVENTS
HUMANS
FROM
LIVING
AS THEY
DESIRE.

NATURE.





LEFT HERE
IN THE
ELEMENTS
WITHOUT
DECOMPOSING.



IT'S
MADE OF
VINYL AND
PLASTIC.

POP,
FANCY,
KITSCH,
TRASHY.



BUT I
REALLY
LOVE IT.

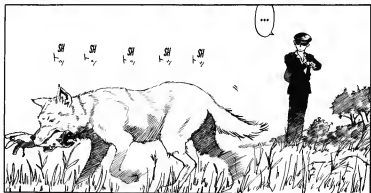


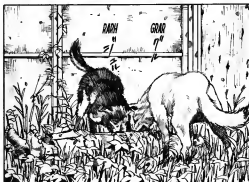
THE
MATERIAL
FEELS
ARTIFICIAL.
THE
COLORING
IS
CHEAP.

!



A LONG
TIME AGO,
PEOPLE USED
WORDS LIKE
THESE TO
TALK ABOUT
SUCH
PRODUCTS...
I THINK.





I LIKE
EATING
MEAT,
TOO...

CARNI-
VORES.



...



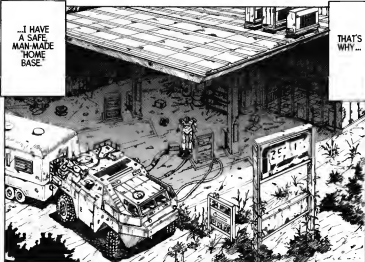
...THAT I
CAN LEAD
A FULL
LIFE IN THE
WILD ON
MY OWN.

OF
COURSE,
THAT
DOESN'T
MEAN...

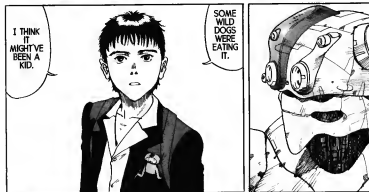
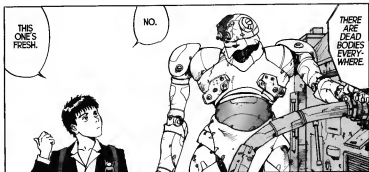


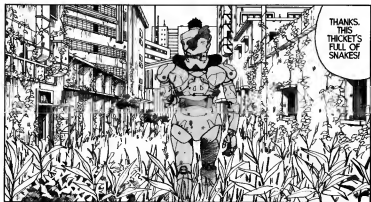
...I HAVE
A SAFE
MAN-MADE
"HOME
BASE."

THAT'S
WHY ...

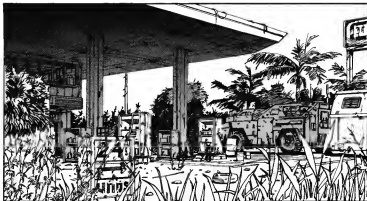




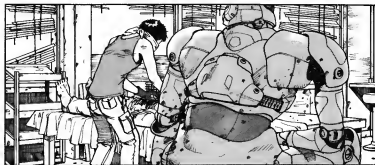


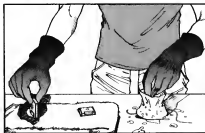






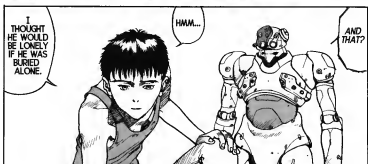


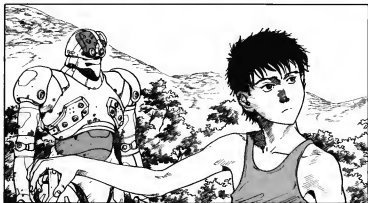
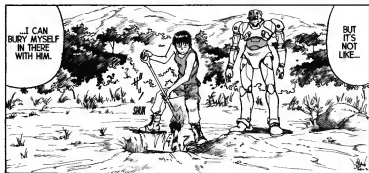




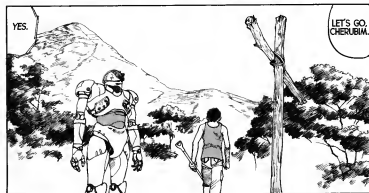
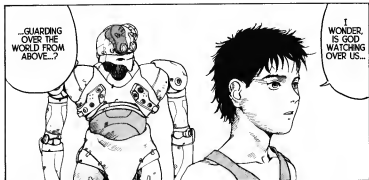












...I DON'T
THINK I
WOULD'VE
MADE THE
WORLD
LIKE
THIS.



IF I
WERE
GOD...

I
WOULDN'T
BE ABLE
TO COME
UP WITH
ANY NEW
OR BETTER
IDEAS.



BUT IF I
WAS ASKED,
"WELL, WHAT
KIND OF
WORLD
WOULD
YOU MAKE,
THEN...?"

Chapter 3
Cruel World,
Cruel Me

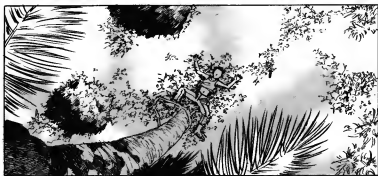
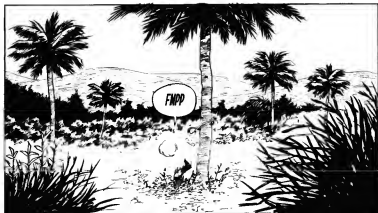


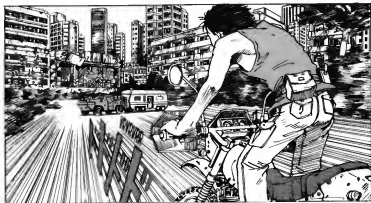
...AND
WE'VE STILL
GOT A
LONG ROAD
AHEAD...

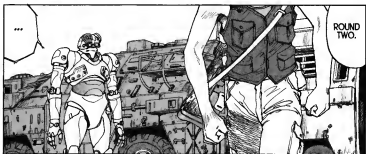
WE'VE
STARTED
TO HIT
THE END OF
THE FOOD
SUPPLIES
WE'VE
BROUGHT
WITH US...

















THE BEETLE
LARVAE
WON'T KEEP.
AND THEY'RE
HARD TO
GET...SO I
GIVE UP ON
THEM.

WE CAN
PRESERVE THE
COCONUT
FRUIT AND
PAPAYA
IN SALT.



WHAT DO
YOU CARE?
YOU ONLY
HAVE
TO EAT
BATTERIES!

BUT
YOU WILL
LACK
PROTEIN.



...YOU
DON'T
MINCE
WORDS,
DO YOU?

BUT
YOU HAVE
NEITHER
THE SKILLS
NOR THE
KNOWLEDGE
TO DO SO,
CORRECT?



I'LL
HAVE TO
SERIOUSLY
GO
HUNTING
TOMOR-
ROW.

AH, NO
AVOIDING
IT.







...WHEN
HE CAN'T
CATCH
HIS PREY,
EITHER?

I WONDER
IF A LION
FEELS THIS
MISERABLE...



...NATURE
HASN'T
BEEN
TREATING
ME TOO
KINDLY.

I GUESS
IT'S
OBVIOUS.
BUT...



AND
MY FATHER
ALWAYS
GAVE ME
THIS PIECE OF
ADVICE...

WHEN I
THINK ABOUT
IT, MY
MOTHER
ALWAYS
GAVE ME
KINDNESS.



I STILL
DON'T KNOW
WHAT IT
MEANS
EXACTLY.

...“BE KIND
WITHOUT END
TO THOSE
DEAR TO YOU,
BE CRUEL
WITHOUT END
TO THOSE WHO
AREN'T, AND
FINALLY YOU'LL
BE A MAN.”

BOY, IT
WOULD BE
GREAT IF I
COULD GET A
GIRLFRIEND
SOON!

...

AND THEN, IF
EVERYONE
IN THE WORLD
COULD DO
THE SAME
AND BE HAPPY,
THAT'D BE
GREAT.

I'D LIKE
TO FIND A
CUTE AND
GENTLE
GIRL AND
FALL
IN LOVE

WE'D MAKE
TONS OF
KIDS AND
LIVE ON
LOVING AND
BEING LOVED...

LOVELY 71

GURGLE

GUNGLE

AND THEN,
EVERY NIGHT,
SHE AND I
WOULD OX△□□
AND □△△
ALL NIGHT
LONG!

FOX
THOSE
PANTS!

WELL,
THEN...

GROWING

うん

enon 5 off

...I'LL
END UP
DYING OF
STARVA-
TION.

IF I
SPEND MY
TIME HERE
DAY-
DREAMING.

...POWER-
LESS,
UNABLE
TO TAKE
CARE OF
MYSELF.

I DON'T
WANT TO
GO ON
LIKE THIS...



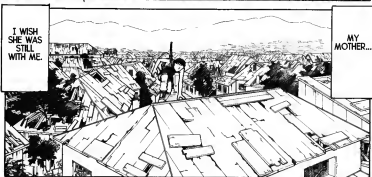
...WAS MY
MOTHER.

THE ONLY
ONE WHO
EVER LOVED
ME, EVEN
IN THAT
STATE...



I WISH
SHE WAS
STILL
WITH ME.

MY
MOTHER...





ONE'S SKILL
IS NOT IN HOW
FAR AWAY YOU
CAN SHOOT A
TARGET FROM.
IT'S ABOUT
HOW CLOSE
YOU CAN GET
TO YOUR PREY.

I READ
SOMETHING
SOMEWHERE
ONCE ABOUT
HUNTING.



BEEN
ENDURING
THE
MOSQUITOES
AND ANTS
FOR AN
HOUR...



AT THIS
RANGE,
I'M
PERFECT.

I
PRACTICED
ON EMPTY
CANS...







BIG
TALKING,
NO
TALENT,
USELESS...

IDIOT!
MORON!
BONEHEAD!
DUMBBELL!
OCTOPUS!
POTATO!



OW--!!

THROB



...

BACK



BUT AM I
GOING TO
BE ABLE
TO GET IT
OUT
MYSELF?

URRRR

THE
BONE...ISN'T
BROKEN.





THAT'S IT--
FROM NOW
ON, I'M
GONNA
BE A
VEGETARIAN!

EATING
MEAT IS
CRUEL
AND
BARBARIC
ANYWAY!



THE
SUN'S
SETTING
ALREADY?







I
HIT
IT!!

!!



I SHOT
HIM
DOWN!!



I
SHOT
HIM
DOWN!!



I
DID
IT!!!

入あああああ
CRAAAWN

MEAT!
MEAT AT
LAAAAST!!



...A PARENT BIRD WILL SOMETIMES PRETEND THAT IT'S WEAK IN ORDER TO ACT AS A DECOY AND PROTECT ITS CHICKS.



I READ SOMETHING ELSE SOMEWHERE ONCE, TOO...



ONE: I FORGET ABOUT IT AND WALK AWAY.
TWO: I KILL THE CHICKS TOO.
THREE: I BRING THEM HOME WITH ME AND WIPE AWAY MY GUILT BY RAISING THEM MYSELF.

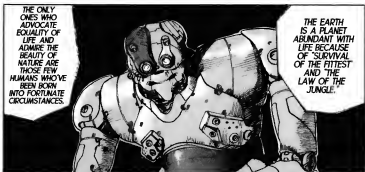


SO WHAT THE HECK AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?



I GET THE IMPRESSION, SOMEHOW, THAT THIS WORLD HAS BEEN SCREWED UP SINCE DAY ONE.









...I POUR
A TEA
FOR ONE
AND
HAVE A
NICE, LONG
DRINK.

EVERY
MORNING,
AFTER I
WAKE UP...



BUT--



--THAT
AIN'T
GONNA
HAPPEN
THIS
MORNING.





Chapter 4 / Emotions

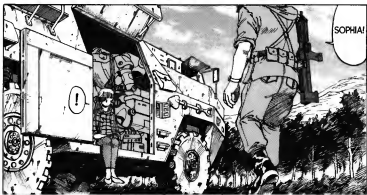
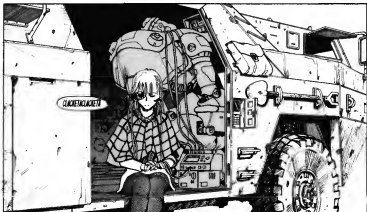


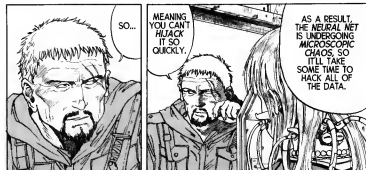
WHY
DON'T
THEY
JUST
TRY TO
KILL ME...?

WHO
ARE
THESE
PEOPLE?!









NEURAL NET: AN INFORMATION SYSTEM, NOT NECESSARILY CENTRALIZED IN A BRAIN, CREATED BY A COMPLEX NETWORK OF NEURONS. SAME AS AN AI.
MICROSCOPIC CHAOS: THE PROGRESSION OF ENERGY INTO A STATE OF CHAOS DUE TO RANDOM COLLISIONS AT THE MOLECULAR LEVEL.







...TO END
UP WITH A
STARE THAT
DANGEROUS
??



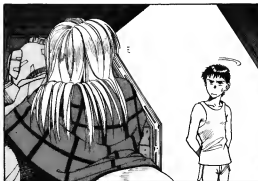
WHAT DO
YOU HAVE
TO GO
THROUGH...



...YOUNG
ELIJAH...

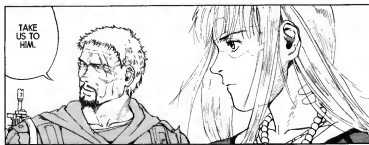


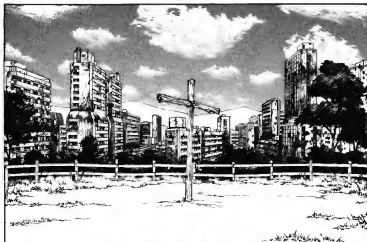
NOW,
THEN...



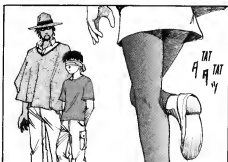
















...



HUH?
OH...

I DON'T
GET IT.
WHAT WAS
HE TO
HER?



HE
WAS HER
EIGHTH
CHILD.

HUH?!

THAT
KID YOU
BURIED.



SHE
DOESN'T
LOOK IT.
BUT SHE'S
FORTY-ONE.

MM...

K-KIDS?!
B-BUT SHE'S
STILL ONLY...



...AND TRADED
THE REST
IN FOR A
MECHANICAL
BODY.

THE THING IS,
FIVE YEARS AGO
SHE KEPT HER
BRAIN, SPINAL
CORD, AND
HEART...



AFTER
POPPING OUT
ALL THOSE
KIDS, SHE
SWITCHED TO
AN ARTIFICIAL
PREPUBESCENT
BODY.

--AGAINST
THE RULES!!!

SHE HAD
A GREAT
HOBBY.
YOU ASK
ME.



BUT
THAT'S--



YES!



FIND
IT?

COLONEL!



BUT IT
FELT LIKE
SHE WAS
COMMITTING
SOME KIND
OF TABOO
ACT.

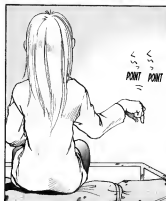
CLACKETY CLACKETY CLACKETY CLACKETY CLACKETY
74 74 74 74 74

HOW
CONVENIENT
TO BE ABLE
TO JUST
FORGET
IN AN
INSTANT.

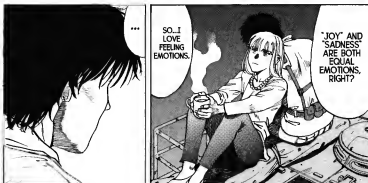








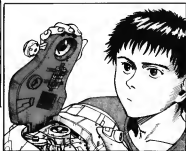






MAYBE
SOPHIA
KNEW
ABOUT
ALL OF
IT.

I MADE
COPIES,
AND I
HID THEM
HERE.



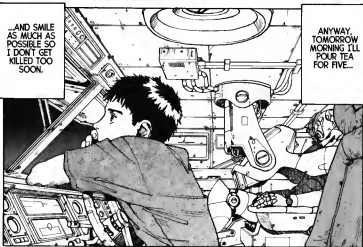
...THEN
I GUESS
I'M DEAD
FOR SURE,
HUH?

IF SHE
EXPOSES
ME...



...AND SMILE
AS MUCH AS
POSSIBLE SO
I DON'T GET
KILLED TOO
SOON.

ANYWAY,
TOMORROW
MORNING I'LL
POUR TEA
FOR FIVE...

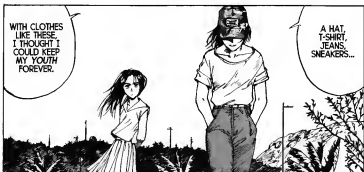




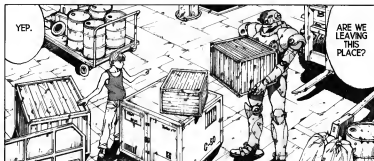
HEY,
BIG
SISTER!

I'M
STARTING
TO GET
OLDER LIKE
YOU NOW!

Bonus Story / Day Dream







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DAVID NESTELLE
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EDEN Volume 1

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AFTERWORD

You stroll into a bookstore. Obviously, since it's a bookstore, it's overflowing with books. You head to the manga section, and the sheer volume is astounding. When you find the erotic manga corner, you're surprised that so many varieties of porno manga exist. You get a little dizzy thinking about what the total weight of all the energy of all these fantasies, expressions, imaginings, and emotions must be.

Moving along, you hit the music shop next. It's the same as the bookstore, spilling over with a mind-boggling number of discs. In the rock music section, most of the music sounds similar, but still dissimilar enough to let you notice and point out specific styles. It's the same with manga. They're all "manga," but there are plenty of differences to allow for genres and sub-genres.

Back at home, you stare at your own CD rack and realize that there's not a single thing that you want to listen to. You might have hundreds of CDs, but there's nothing in your collection that exists as a projection of the emotions you're feeling *right now*; nothing to serve as a device to pull your emotions from you and make them greater.

This will never end. You've been going in and out of bookstores and music shops for years, looking for that one book that will let you say, "I'll never need another book again," or that one record that will let you say, "Now I can throw away all my others." But that one, elusive book or record simply doesn't exist. Sure, every once in a while something new and "inventive" will come out, and you'll feel that you finally have something that reflects your emotions. Then, soon afterwards, your emotions spill over again, beyond what the work represents, overflowing from a work of art which is not big enough to contain them or connect to them anymore. But, you know what? This is to be expected. How

could something that someone else created ever really "reach" you?

As I was watching *Evangelion*, up until about the fourteenth episode, I remember thinking, "Ahh! Everything I've always wanted to do has been done! I don't have to do anything anymore! Anno and his crew have done it all for me." But about a month after the final broadcast, I became aware that, as usual, my own feelings had spilled over from what they had been during the *Eva* airings. The final episode was not unsatisfying. I smiled fully. But, in the end, I still couldn't say, "I'll never need another anime again." Of course, there are always those who will make anime parodies and "fan anime" of this series, trying to harness their overflowing emotions to create their own stories out of a desperate need to reconnect, trying to create something whole out of what they found lacking in *Eva*, trying to make the pieces fit better for themselves to complete something which wasn't theirs to complete in the first place. I guess everyone's the same in that way, when we think about how we'd change something to make it "better" or actually try to create something better.

Eden was one part of my attempt to reconnect with my overflowing feelings. From art patched together comes more patched-together art. It's the same thing over and over.

BUT ... in these always-incomplete, patchwork things, there are good things worth repeating and exploring further. I believe in these patchwork creations, as long they give joy, excitement, laughter, and something to believe in. I have realized that, as long as emotions overflow from my work, but still flow *through me*, I'm not losing anything.

—Hiroki Endo March 16, 1998

(Translation by Michael Gombos and Kumar Sivakubramanian)



遠藤浩輝

EDEN VOLUME 1

Hiroki Endo

Eden is both a brilliant love song to the post-apocalyptic survival genre and an exploration on humanity's role in the natural order. When a large portion of civilization is wiped out by a brutal new virus, those who aren't immune are either severely crippled or live only with cybernetically enhanced or entirely mechanical bodies. Taking advantage of a world in chaos, the paramilitary Propater forces topple the United Nations and seek global domination. In this cutthroat, cyberpunk future, Elijah—a young boy on a personal quest—travels with an artificially intelligent combat robot through a pitiless, futuristic landscape.

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